

# MATERNAL, INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH

## Health in Rural Missouri Biennial Report, 2022-2023

Maternal, infant, and child health (MCH) indicators provide an essential source of information about the well-being of some of Missouri's most vulnerable populations.

The following information is based on 2017-2021 data.

## LOW BIRTH WEIGHT & PRETERM BIRTHS

Pregnancies can result in a preterm birth when a baby is born less than 37 weeks gestation or low birth weight (LBW) when a baby weighs less than 5.5 pounds.

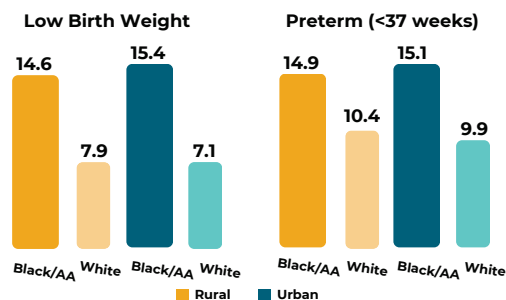


**70% of infants** born with a LBW were also born prematurely.

**The 5 Highest LBW Rates** among **rural** counties were found in the Bootheel region.

**Highest LBW rate:** Dunklin County 13.2 per 100 live births.

Low Birth Weight and Preterm Rate by Race  
Missouri, 2017-2021



Black/African American babies had a LBW rate nearly **twice** that of white babies in **rural** counties.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality includes deaths that occur after birth but before a child's first birthday.

**426 infant deaths** occurred on average each year.

**Infant mortality rates** among **rural** Black/African American infants were **2x** higher than the rate of **rural** white infants.

**Highest rate:** Dallas County 17.3 per 1,000 live births.

10 Highest Infant Mortality Rates  
Missouri, 2017-2021

